REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

Municipal Borough of Wilton

FOR

THE YEAR ENDING 31st. DEC.,

1920.

Wilton:
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Report.

Natural and Social Conditions of District.

The Population at the Census of 1911 was:—2124.
The Official Estimate for 1920 is:— 2348.

Wilton is a small town lying at the junction of the valleys of the Wylye and the Nadder. The town is closely surrounded by hills, and most of it is built upon very low-lying ground.

The climate is moist and relaxing, so that catarrhal and arthritic complaints, with their after effects on the circulatory system, are prevalent.

Manufactories of carpets, felt, and whiting are carried on in the district. No deleterious effect on the public health has been found associated with any of these industries, the workers in all of which generally enjoy good health

Vital Statistics:—

Number of legitimate births:— Male 31, Female 21.
,, illegitimate births:— ,, —, ,, 1.
Total Births ,, 31, ,, 22

Birth rate per thousand 22·57. For England and Wales, 25·4.

Total Deaths—Male 12, Female 14. Rate per thousand 11·07. Rate for England and Wales, 12·4.

Average age at Death, 45·4.
Deaths of infants under one year, 6.
Rate per thousand births, 113·2. Rate for England and Wales, 80.

The number of cases of pauper sickness attended during the year was 12. The amount of Poor Law Relief paid was £177.

Gratuitous medical relief is obtainable at the Salisbury Infirmary, and is chiefly made use of by persons requiring operative and other hospital treatment.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water :—The town water supply, though hard, is excellent in quality and sufficient in quantity. The supply is constant from a reservoir to which the water is pumped from the waterworks. The situation of the reservoir is not high enough to maintain a constant supply in certain houses in the town, so that for some hours each day the water is pumped directly into the mains.

The source of supply is in springs at Water Ditchampton, free from possibilities of contamination The water is not plumbo-solvent and no action has had to be taken during the year in regard to any form of contamination.

Rivers and Streams :—Measures have been taken during the year to reduce contamination of streams by household refuse, and the condition in this respect has greatly improved, as the result of visits by the Sanitary Inspector to the houses concerned.

Drainage and Sewerage :—The sewage is disposed of to the Wilton Rural District Council's Bemerton sewerage scheme. These arrangements have been satisfactory during the year. Surface water is carried off by a different system of pipes to the river Nadder at Quidhampton.

Closet Accommodation :—During the year there have been three conversions from privy to pail. In these cases it was not practicable to connect up with the sewers. There are now 8 pail closets and about 550 water closets.

Scavenging :—House refuse is collected weekly and disposed of in a disused chalk pit along the Salisbury road. The earth closets are emptied and cleaned by the occupiers of the houses with which they are associated.

Movable ashbins with proper coverings are being substituted for more primitive arrangements. At the end of the year there were about 80 in use.

Sanitary Inspector's Report :—" When I came in February, 1920. I found a small epidemic of Scarlet Fever. Since this was stamped out we have been clear of infectious diseases with three exceptions since last May. The last case occurring in October.

Repairs to about 50 houses have been carrried out. These consist of :—Privy Conversions 3, New W.C's. 6, New Drains 16, W.C's. rebuilt 2, Scullery rebuilt 1, New Windows 12, New Ashbins about 50, Houses cleansed throughout 6, Bakehouses whitewashed 3, New Drainage to stable 1. Several works are at present in hand.

98% of these works have been done voluntarily, and generally speaking, harmonious relations exist between property owners and this department."

Number of Inspections	Premises Visited		Notices Served : Statutory	Notices Served : Informal	Result
Routine 140	Houses under H.&T.P.	60	1	60	Defects found Remedied
Other 160	Other houses	2			
	Schools ..	2			
	Public Hall ..	1			
	Milk Shop ..	1			
	Bakehouses ..	3			
	Slaughterhouses ..	2			
	Butcher's Shops ..	3			
	Fish and Fruit Shops	3			
	Stables	4			
	Factories & Workshops	4			
		85			

Premises and Occupations which are controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations :—There are none in the District. There are no underground sleeping rooms in the district.

Schools :—The sanitary condition and water supply of the schools was sufficient. The National Schools were thoroughly disinfected after an epidemic of Scarlet Fever had broken out in the early part of the year, when the school was closed by the school Medical Officer.

The drains are disinfected and flushed thoroughly each week.

Food.

Milk Supply :—The milk has been wholesome and the arrangements for supply and distribution have been adequate. No action has had to be taken under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Orders, or with regard to tuberculous milk.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919—No action has been required under this order during the year.

Meat :—Very little slaughtering takes place in the district, in which there is no public abattoir.

The condition of the slaughterhouses is good, and no action has had to be taken with regard to them ; nor have any carcases or parts of carcases been condemned for tuberculosis.

Six cases of tinned fish were voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption.

Number of Slaughterhouses in use in the district :—

	In 1914.	In Jan. 1920.	In Dec. 1920.
Registered	2	2	2
Licensed	—	—	—
Total	2	2	2

Other Foods :—The bakehouses and other premises where foods are manufactured, prepared, stored, or exposed for sale are well kept and in good condition. Existing powers have been found adequate for dealing with the sanitary conditions in such places.

There have been no cases of food poisoning in the district.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Diseases.

Infectious Diseases Generally:—During the year 25 cases of Scarlet Fever, 3 of Diphtheria, 2 of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 1 of Erysipelas, 2 of Pneumonia, 1 of Pulmonary and 1 of other Tuberculosis were notified.

As cases of Diphtheria are sent to the Isolation Hospital as soon as diagnosed, there has been no necessity to make arrangements for the supply of antitoxin, as that is employed at the Isolation Hospital.

There have been no cases of Encephalitis Lethargica in the district.

In one case Scarlet Fever is believed to have been caught from a case returned from the Isolation Hospital.

With regard to the diseases made notifiable under the regulations 7th January, 1919, there have been 2 cases of Pneumonia.

No use has had to be made of bacteriological aids to diagnosis during the year. The cases of Diphtheria were sufficiently typical when first seen to allow of them being sent to the Isolation Hospital without waiting for a bacteriological report.

When patients are removed to the Isolation Hospital the bedding used by them is sent with them for steam disinfection, and the room occupied is disinfected at the earliest opportunity.

No vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Small-pox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

During the year there have been no school intimations of disease, and no particular epidemic of any non-notifiable infectious disease.

No special inquiry or action has had to be undertaken with regard to influenza in the district during the year. There were no deaths from influenza.

There are no particular facilities available in the district for the cleansing and disinfecting of verminous persons and their belongings. The usual procedure is to have the persons removed to the Wilton Poor Law Institution and the houses thoroughly disinfected and whitewashed.

Cases of Tuberculosis are promptly notified when diagnosed. No action has had to be taken to enforce these regulations.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

There were no cases of puerperal fever during the year.

There were two cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, in neither of which was either eye left permanently injured.

There was no particular epidemic of measles, whooping cough, or epidemic diarrhoea in the district during the year.

There were no cases of poliomyelitis.

Sanitary Administration.

(1). *Staff* :—This consists of a Sanitary Inspector who is also Inspector of Nuisances, Borough Surveyor, and Collector of Rates.

(2). *Hospital Accommodation* :—There is ample and efficient available for infectious diseases at the Joint Districts Isolation Hospital. There is also a Joint Districts Small-pox Hospital. During the year 23 cases of Scarlet Fever, 3 of Diphtheria, and one of Erysipelas were sent to the hospital. These hospitals are administered by a committee of members from the various district councils concerned.

(3). *Local Acts, special Local Orders, or general adoptive Acts* :—There are none in force in the district.

(4). *Arrangements for chemical and bacteriological work* :—No necessity has arisen during the year for making use of these. When required they are undertaken by the Clinical Research Association Cases of suspected tuberculosis are usually sent to the County Tuberculosis Officer at his Salisbury Dispensary. When he considers it necessary to do so he arranges for bacteriological examination to be made. In other cases the examination is made by the practitioner attending the case.

There has been no report required from the public analyst.

Housing.

(I) *General housing conditions in the district* :—

(1). General housing conditions are unsatisfactory. There were no new houses built during the year, nor were any under construction at the close of the year.

(2). *(a)* There is a serious shortage of houses. It is estimated that 50 new houses are required.

(b) There is a building scheme in prospect, and at present a contract for 14 houses to be adapted from army huts in the district is under consideration by the Housing Commissioner.

(3). There has been no important change of population during the year, nor is any anticipated in the future.

(II). *Overcrowding* :—

(1). Extent :—Six cases.

(2) Cause :—Lack of houses.

(3). Measures taken or contemplated :— building scheme referred to above.

(4). Principal cause of overcrowding during the year :—Lack of houses. No action could be taken owing to want of houses.

(III). *Fitness of Houses* :—

(1). (*a*) The general standard of housing in the district is indifferent.

(*b*) The general character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses are general delapidation, low ceilings, want of damp courses, lack of light and ventilation.

(*c*) For the greater part defects are not due to lack of proper management and supervision by owners, who are mostly good landlords.

(2). General action taken as regards unfit houses :— Repairs have been carried out in 50 cases under the Public Health Acts and the Housing Acts.

(3). The chief difficulties in remedying unfitness are due to the lack of houses, so that houses requiring thorough overhaul cannot be emptied for that purpose. It is hoped soon to get rid of the few back to back houses in the district, but this cannot be done until new houses have been built.

(4). Conditions, so far as they effect housing, of water supply and refuge disposal are satisfactory. Closet accommodation is fair, and we are gradually working towards getting a separate W.C. for each house.

(IV). *Unhealthy Areas*:—

No complaints have been received, representations made, or action taken in regard to unhealthy areas.

(V). *Bye-laws relating to houses, to houses let in lodgings, and to tents, vans, sheds, etc.* : —

(1) The working of existing bye-laws has been satisfactory.

(2) No new bye-laws are required, nor any revision of existing bye-laws.

TABLE I—WILTON URBAN DISTRICT.

Vital Statistics of the Whole District during 1920 *and previous years.*

Year	Population estimated to middle of year	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett deaths belonging to the District.			
		Uncorrected number	Nett				of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents not registered in the District	Under 1 year of Age		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate	Number	Rate			Number	Rate per 1000 Nett Births.	Number	Rate
1914	2158	35	35	16·1	23	10·6		2	1	28	25	11·5
1915	2181	46	42	19·2	28	12·8		4	3	71	32	14·6
1919	2352	47	49	20 8	28	12·4		9	4	81·6	37	16·3
1920	2348	52	53	22·57	23	9·7		3	6	113·2	26	11.07

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) — 1,615

Total population at all ages — 2124

Total families or separate occupiers — 553

At Census 1911

TABLE II—*Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1920 in the Wilton Urban District.*

Notifiable Diseases	Cases Notified.							
	At all ages.	At ages—Years						
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 45	45 to 65	65 and upwards
Scarlet Fever	25		3	18	2	1	1	
Diphtheria	3		2	1				
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2						
Erysipelas	1						1	
Pneumonia	2			1		1		
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1					1		
Other ,,	1			1				
Totals	35	2	5	21	2	3	2	

Isolation Hospital—Joint Isolation Hospital at Old Sarum.

TABLE III—*Causes of, and Ages at Death during 1920, in the Wilton Urban District*

CAUSES OF DEATH	Nett Deaths of "Residents" whetheroccurring within or without the District.									Total deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-residents" in Institutions in the district.
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2	2 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards	
All Causes { Certified / Uncertified	26									
Pulmonary Tuberculosis...	1							1		
Cancer Malignant Disease	2							1	1	
Organic Heart Disease .	4								4	
Bronchitis ...	2	2								
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	2						1	1		
Other Respiratory Diseases	1							1		
Appendicitis and Typhitis	1					1				
Nephritis&Bright'sDisease	1					1				
Congenital Debility, etc....	3	3								
Other Defined Diseases ..	9	1			1			2	5	
Total ...	26	6			1	2	1	6	10	

TABLE IV—*INFANT MORTALITY in Wilton Urban District*

1920. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages Under One Year of age

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 week.	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks & under 3 months	3 and under 6 months	6 and under 9 months	Total Deaths under one year
All causes { Certified / Uncertified	2			3	1	2		6
onchitis					1	1		2
Congenital Debility ...	2			3				3
Other Defined Diseases						1		1
Total	2			3	1	2		6

Nett Births in the year { Legitimate 52 / Illegitimate 1

Nett Deaths in the year { Legitimate infants 6 / Illegitimate infants 0

HOUSING CONDITIONS

Year ending 31st. December, 1920.

1—General.

1.	Estimated Population		2,348
2.	General Death-rate		11·07
3.	Death-rate from Tuberculosis		0·42
4.	Infantile Mortality		113·2
5.	Number of dwelling houses of all classes ...	... about	700
6.	Number of working class dwelling houses ..	... about	650
7.	Number of working class houses erected ..	...	0

2—Unfit Dwelling Houses.

i. Inspection.

1.	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ...	50
2.	Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	50
3.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	24
4.	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	60

ii. Remedy of Defects without service of formal Notices.

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	50

iii. Action under Statutory Powers A. B. C. None

3—Unhealthy Areas None

4	Number of houses not complying with the building bye-laws erected with consent of Local Authority under Section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919 ..	None
5.	Staff engaged on housing work—1 Sanitary Inspector, who is also Surveyor, Inspector of Nuisances, and Collector of Rates.	